

## MAINTAINING A GOOD RECORD

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California Board of Podiatric Medicine

Maintaining a good record with the state is not difficult. Almost all Board of Podiatric Medicine (BPM) licensees manage to do so.

In addition to maintaining competency, the public expects podiatric physicians to practice with a high professionalism. BPM's mission is to protect the public. A key element is enhancing competency and reducing medical error.

BPM is a leader in this and podiatric medicine is emerging as an elite medical specialty. The number of public complaints and disciplinary actions already show some decline. This is happening despite greater public access to the Medical Board's complaint system.

***Dr. Derick Ball***, *President of the L.A. County Podiatric Medical Society*, says his Executive Board believes the decline in consumer complaints "is related to the excellent effort by the BPM to its licensees in the education, engagement, remediation and, when necessary, enforcement of the parameters regarding the quality and standard of care."

### Internet Information

Dr. Nguyen and his colleagues on the Board recommend frequent review of the Board's website:

[www.bpm.ca.gov](http://www.bpm.ca.gov)

This includes ***Quick Hits*** to check your license information, update your address, obtain BPM *E-Updates* and fact sheets for patients, health facilities and yourself.

Whatever you need or want to peruse--the law, BPM's regulations, our meeting agendas and minutes--it's right here. And if it is other organizations you're looking for, just go to the Links page.

### un-Professional Pitfalls

- ❑ Incompetent, negligent practice of podiatric medicine
- ❑ Failure to disclose criminal offenses on the application or renewal form
- ❑ Practice under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- ❑ Falsification or misrepresentation of medical reports, records or treatments.
- ❑ Inadequate medical records
- ❑ Deceptive billing practices
- ❑ Sexual contact with patients

### Words to the Wise

1. Be honest on your application and renewal forms
2. Call the Board's staff if you have questions (direct line to the executive officer is 916-263-2650)
3. Call anonymously if you wish, but call
4. Follow the standard of care and your health facility protocols
5. Put patients first
6. Don't abuse alcohol, never drink & drive, and always practice soberly
7. Get yourself into a confidential treatment program if you have a substance abuse or alcohol problem
8. Honor the profession and keep it clean
9. Remember the *Code of Medical Ethics* requires stand-up peer review and reporting to the Medical Board.
10. First and foremost--***do no harm***